On Ovid’s Reception in the Renaissance: 
the Metamorphoses by Federico Frangipane

von

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am Dienstag, 26. November 2013 um 18.00 Uhr
im Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“, Langer Weg 11, SR 3)
einzuladen.

The Metamorphoses by the Friulan poet Federico Frangipane (ca. 1530-1599) are a series of 24 poems in elegiac couplets which tell the etiology of several animals, plants and even mythological creatures (like the Mermaid and the Catoblepas). I will compare these texts to Ovid’s Metamorphoses, as well as to their extensive reception in the Renaissance. Frangipane’s poems are also interesting because they interlace the classical model with the Petrarchist tradition, which was hegemonic in the contemporary lyric in vernacular. This influence also explains the treatment of the dominant theme in these metamorphoses, i.e. unrequited love. I will dwell upon the complex tradition of some myths (such as the Phoenix and the transformation of Adonis into flower), by showing the different versions of such tales and the changes Frangipane introduces. The author is interested in local peculiarities (like the etiology of a fish typical of Lake Garda, about which there are many legends). This approach reflects also in the language: some animals are mentioned by latinizing their dialectal name.